



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Ted Stewart  
Executive Director

James W. Carter  
Division Director

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-5319 (TDD)

May 26, 1994

Mr. Alan Wilson  
Senior Reclamation Engineer  
Hecla Mining Company  
6500 Mineral Drive  
Box C-8000  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

Re: Supplemental Reclamation Plan Information, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Please find attached, a copy of the field inspection memorandum that was prepared documenting our recent (May 6, 1994) Board/Division tour of the Escalante mine site. The memorandum outlines the discussions I had with you at the end of the tour, concerning the specific type of supplemental reclamation information requested in our April 25, 1994 letter.

Our April 25th letter requested receipt of the supplemental information by June 6, 1994. Because you have been waiting for a follow up letter, and/or copy of the attached inspection memo before preparing your response, we will extend the timeframe for responding until June 30, 1994.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in addressing this matter. Please contact me directly should you have remaining questions or concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

D. Wayne Hedberg  
Permit Supervisor  
Minerals Regulatory Program

jb  
attachment  
cc: Lowell Braxton, DOGM  
Minerals staff (route)  
M021004.sup





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May 13, 1994

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Travis Jones, Reclamation Hydrologist *TWJ*  
D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor *DWH*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Escalante Silver Mine, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 6, 1994

Time of Inspection: 1000-1145

Conditions: Sunny, windy

Participants: Board of Oil, Gas and Mining; Alan Wilson--Hecla Mining Company; Arthur Tait, Gina Pack--BLM; James Carter, Lowell Braxton, Wayne Hedberg, Travis Jones, Tom Mitchell, Ron Daniels, Jan Brown, and Joelle Burns--DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Board Tour; to see the progress of the reclamation of the mine site and tailings impoundment

Alan Wilson gave us a brief project history and brought us up-to-date on the progress of the reclamation that has transpired to date.

The mine was shutdown, shafts, decline/entries backfilled/sealed, and the pumps pulled from the mine dewatering wells in 1989. The 17 mile canal used for aquifer recharging has been reclaimed. Mr. Wilson told us that some of the onsite milling and processing equipment has been removed and taken to their Grouse Creek mine in Idaho. He indicated that the remaining milling/processing equipment would probably be moved to their Grouse Creek mine or their new Rosebud project located in Nevada. He did not have a definitive timeframe, but thought this would happen gradually over the next 1 1/2 - 2 years. Mr. Wilson indicated the northern most office facility had been sold as part of a 20-acre parcel to Reliant Testing Company. He stated that Hecla may be putting up another 20 acre parcel of mine property for sale in the near future. An old onsite head frame apparently has some historical value and will remain. Photographs were taken of the remaining structures and facilities.



Next we proceeded to the tailings impoundment. The 10-inch layer of wasterock, comprising the capillary barrier, had been spread over the impoundment. Survey stakes, indicating the depth of subsoil to be placed, were present. Mr. Wilson informed us that a minimum of 18 inches of subsoil would be spread over the impoundment. Some places (nearer the dam) could receive up to four feet of subsoil in order to attain the proper final grade. Scrapers were actively stripping and placing subsoil during our inspection.

We observed a new runoff control ditch being constructed around the perimeter of the impoundment. Mr. Wilson indicated that, to his knowledge, runoff has never flowed in the upper undisturbed area diversion ditch during the life of the impoundment. The new ditch has been sized for an extreme precipitation event, will be riprapped at critical sections, and should be more than adequate to handle all the runoff from the contributing watershed areas.

At the conclusion of the inspection/tour by the Board, Wayne Hedberg asked Alan Wilson to provide the Division with a detailed inventory of the structures/facilities remaining onsite. The list should be cross-referenced to an updated site facilities map which shows the location of remaining structures. Those facilities that no longer exist should be labelled accordingly. A description of Hecla's proposed plans for the remaining facilities, including any plans for the future sale of the properties or equipment, should also be provided. A description of any previous property sale(s) is also necessary. Mr. Hedberg also asked Mr. Wilson to provide a general cost estimate for demolition and reclamation of the remaining surface facilities that presently is not described in the approved reclamation plan. This supplemental information should be formatted to be included as an addendum/amendment to the approved mining and reclamation plan. Mr. Hedberg and Mr. Wilson also discussed the need to arrange their schedules for a future site inspection with the BLM to jointly review the status of completed reclamation activities. The inspection/tour concluded at about 11:45 a.m.

jb

cc: Arthur Tait, BLM  
Alan Wilson, Hecla  
Lowell Braxton  
Minerals staff (route)

M021004.ins





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Date: May 26, 1994

Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet: 3

TO: Alan Wilson  
Helsa Mining Co  
6500 Mineral Dr Box C 8000  
Coeur d'Alene ID 83814-1931

Phone: (Fax) 1-208-769-4122

FROM: Wayne Hedberg  
Minerals Reclamation and Development Program

Phone: (801) 538-5340

FAX: (801) 359-3940

SUBJECT: Site Inspection - Escalante Silver Mine  
m/021/004

REMARKS: hard copy will be in todays mail

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